

PUBLIUS VIRGILLIUS ELMORE



More than seventy years ago when Colonization Roads were being constructed through the rural districts of Canada West (Ontario) one of the prominent surveyors associated with this important work was Publius V. Elmore. Our early Provincial records mention his name in the county of North Hastings, and elsewhere, and the varied experiences of those engaged in the surveys and construction of roads through rough, timbered country where supplies had to be hauled and packed, and where canoes occupied a prominent place in the equipment, become interesting and sometimes thrilling reading to-day. The accompanying excellent photograph, taken from an old daguerreotype, shows that Publius V. Elmore attained a ripe old age before he died and was buried in Belleville in the year 1857.

From information furnished by Mrs. Joseph W. Elmore, we understand that the genealogy of the Elmore family in a direct line is as follows:—Edward, Samuel, Jonathan, Eliakim, Joseph, Dr. Joseph B., and Publius V. No dates were given nor places of residence.

Publius V. Elmore was born in the year 1798, and there can be little doubt that his father's family were U. E. Loyalists. Joseph B. was born on April 29th, 1825, and died on April 7th, 1854. He married Sarah Ann German of Adolphustown, on May 27th, 1846. Joseph B. had one son, Joseph Watson, who lived for some years in Adolphustown. After Joseph B.'s death, his widow married John C. McAlease of Brighton, Ontario. After McAlease's death the widow took up her abode with her only son, Joseph Watson in Buffalo, and remained there until her death, at the age of 84 years. This son Joseph Watson, was born on July 27th, 1851, and died November 27th, 1913. He married Catharine Amelia Winterroth on May 30th,

1880. He left two sons, Alfred Watson, born September 17th, 1888, and Joseph B., born August 15th, 1890, also his widow.

William R. was the second son of Publius. He married a Miss Victoria Counter, a daughter of John Counter, at one time the mayor of the City of Kingston. This John Counter built the Wolfe Island Canal. Wm. R. had one daughter, and possibly one son, both now reported dead. The family lived for a time at Buffalo and later at Philadelphia. Wm. R. was a Civil Engineer and for a time was employed with the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, one of those early projects in the country when railway construction had its beginning.

Joseph W. Elmore died in 1913 leaving two sons, J. B. Elmore and A. W. Elmore. Their mother is still living and has assisted the latter son in furnishing the above data from their home on Staten Island, where Richard Walton Elmore, of the latest generation of this family now holds sway.

Publius V. Elmore was married in Shannonville, east of Belleville, but the date and maiden name of his wife have not been preserved by his relatives. She was probably the daughter of some farmer in that locality whose name may yet be found. She died prior to 1853, at which time Publius V. was living at 22 East Church Street, Belleville. Publius had one brother at least, and one sister who never married. In 1831 Mr. P. V. Elmore was secretary of a Temperance Lodge at Hallowell, of which Mr. Morden, M.P., was President. This would indicate that Mr. Elmore lived in Prince Edward County for some years.

A volume could be written concerning the Elmore family, and many others of our early Canadian settlers, had each generation made some few records in a family-book kept for that special purpose and handed down as a precious heirloom, where, to-day, the history is almost a blank, as in this case. But one loving tribute was made by the daughter-in-law of Publius V. Elmore, concerning his life and character, which is worth more to the general public, our surveyors and, particularly, his descendants, than pages of generalities. That intimate member of the Elmore family who lived to the age of 84, made the statement to her daughter-in-law still living that, Publius V. Elmore was one of the grandest old gentlemen she ever knew; that he was a good Christian; that he was a faithful member of the Methodist Church, and sometimes led the prayer-meeting. That simple testimony is worth more than costly monument or glowing epitaph.

Mr. Elmore was a large man, and in his old age became bald. There are a few old residents of Belleville who remember seeing Mr. Elmore.

P. V. Elmore was appointed a Deputy Provincial Surveyor on June 2nd, 1821. On the survey of the Hastings Road, his son, J. B. Elmore acted as chain man in August, 1851.

From the Government, Mr. Elmore received instructions for surveying:—

1831—Tenth and Eleventh Concessions of Richmond.

1831—Township of Hallowell.

1831—East Boundary, Township of Kingston.

1834—Township Boundary, Hallowell and Sophiasburg.

1837—Part of Township of Marysburgh.

1839—Township Boundaries, Ameliasburgh, Hillier and Sophiasburg.

1843—Boundary line, Township of Beverley.

1845—Verification 8th to 12th Concession, Seymour.

1847—Exploration line rear of Victoria District.

1857—Tier of lots both sides Hastings Road.

(See paper on Hastings Road by C. Fraser Aylesworth in this Report.)

The following plans by P. V. Elmore are filed in the Registry Office at Belleville:

Meyers Commons—July, 1850.

Part of Madoc Village for Uriah Seymour—May, 1850.

Part Lot 2 W. Park St. for R. J. Everett—January, 1856.

Part Lot 7, Con. 1, Top Thurlow for Tobies Blecker—February, 1863.